

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Oligoclonal antibodies able to recognize and bind the antigenic epitope of at least one glycosylated cytoplasmic or non glycosylated nuclear isoform of human clusterin in a selective and specific way,

wherein the antigenic epitope of the non glycosylated nuclear isoform is selected from the group of amino acid sequences consisting of QFNWVSRLANLTQGEDQK (SEQ ID No 1), and non glycosylated TKLKELPGVCNETMMALWEE (SEQ ID No 2),
and

wherein the antigenic epitope of the glycosylated cytoplasmic isoform is selected from the group of amino acid sequences consisting of TKLKELPGVCNETMMALWEE (SEQ ID No 2) glycosylated at its N residue, TNEERKTLLSNLEEAK (SEQ ID No 3), and METVAEKALQEYRKK (SEQ ID No 4), and

wherein said epitope being is immunogenic and ~~characterised by a length from 10 to 20 amminoacids.~~

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 1, wherein the antibodies are tagged.

6. (Currently Amended) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 5, wherein the antibodies are tagged with a ~~fluorochrome~~ fluorochrome, a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, biotin or a chemiluminescent substance.

7. (Currently Amended) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 6, wherein the ~~fluorochrome~~ fluorochrome is selected from the group consisting of ~~fluoresceinine~~, fluorescein, ficoeritrine, ~~redamine~~, rhodamine, texas red, and cumarine.

8. (Original) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 6, wherein the radioactive isotope is ^{14}C or ^3H .

9. (Original) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 6, wherein the chemiluminescent substance is luciferin.

10. (Original) Oligoclonal antibodies according to claim 6, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of horseradish peroxidase (HRP) or alkaline phosphatase.

11. (Currently Amended) Immunogenic antigenic epitopes of at least one human clusterin isoform comprising at least one of the following ~~amminoacids~~ amino acid sequences: QFNWVSRLANLTQGEDQK (SEQ ID No 1); TKLKELPGVCNETMMALWEE (SEQ ID No 2); TNEERKTLLSNLEEAk (SEQ ID No 3); METVAEKALQEYRKK (SEQ ID No 4) and ~~derivatives thereof~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of the oligoclonal antibodies, as defined in claim 1, which comprises the following steps:

solid phase synthesis of at least one of the antigenic epitopes of at least one human clusterin isoform comprising at least one of the following ~~aminoacidic~~ amino acid sequences: QFNWVSRLANLTQGEDQK (SEQ ID No 1); TKLKELPGVCNETMMALWEE (SEQ ID No 2); TNEERKTLLSNLEEK (SEQ ID No 3); METVAEKALQEYRKK (SEQ ID No 4) and ~~derivatives thereof~~;

conjugation of at least one of the antigenic epitopes wherein a proteic carrier in order to make the epitope immunogenic;

animal immunization with this immunogenic epitope in complete Freund adjuvant; and

serum withdrawal from this animal and purification of the oligoclonal antibodies.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the proteic carrier is the bovine serum albumin.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the animal is rabbit.

15. (Currently Amended) An immunological method for detection of the clusterin levels in biological samples which comprises the following steps:

protein extraction from this biological sample;

specific incubation of the proteic extract with at least one of the oligoclonal antibodies described in claim 1, in order to obtain an antigen antibody complex; and qualitative and quantitative revelation of the antigen antibody complex.

16. (Currently Amended) Immunological method according to claim 15 for ~~tumours~~ diagnosis of tumors characterized by expression of clusterin and the prediction of their malignancy grade.

17. (Currently Amended) An immunological method according to claim 15, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, stool, seminal fluid, pleural fluid, ascitic fluid, urine, and liquor.

18. (Currently Amended) An immunological method according to claim ~~[[15,]]~~ 16 wherein the ~~tumours~~ tumors are selected from the group consisting of colorectal, breast, prostate, testis and ovary carcinomas, ~~tumours~~ tumors of the Central Nervous System and of the haemo lymphopoietic system.

19. (Previously Presented) An immunological method according to claim 15, wherein the detection of step c) is done by using one of the following techniques: ELISA, Western Blot, RIA, immunohistochemistry.

20. (Currently Amended) Diagnostic kit for ~~tumours~~ diagnosis of tumors and prediction of their malignancy grade which comprises at least one of the oligoclonal antibodies as

defined in claim 1.

21. (Currently Amended) Diagnostic kit according to claim [[19,]] 20 wherein the tumours tumors are selected from the group consisting of colorectal, breast, prostate, testis and ovary carcinomas, tumours tumors of the Central Nervous System and of the haemo lymphopoietic system.

22-26. (Cancelled)